

respectfully submit that it is a matter of basic scientific fact that absorption is a very different process from vacuum impregnation as taught in Reznik.

If the proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims prima facie obvious. In re Ratti, 270 F.2d 810, 123 USPQ 349 (CCPA 1959). Thus the Examiner has not presented a prima facie obviousness, as a matter of law.

Reznik, as a whole, teaches away from the presently claimed process, and thus the invention as claimed is not obvious over Reznik. For the same reasons, the invention as claimed is not obvious over Reznik in combination with the GB patents and Hsieh.

In conclusion, the claim language clearly excludes the teachings of Reznik, and further these references clearly teach away from the Applicants' invention as claimed. Moreover, the additional references relied on by the Examiner are incompatible with the teachings of Reznik and do not modify the fact that Reznik teaches away from the Applicants' claimed invention.

For the foregoing reasons, all of the claim rejections are improper, should be withdrawn, and all of the claims should be allowed as presently constituted.

The remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1 or 2 and are believed to be allowable based on their dependence from an allowable claim.

Applicants' attorney has made every effort to place this patent application in condition for allowance. It is therefore earnestly requested that this application, as a whole, receive reconsideration and that all of the claims be allowed as presently constituted. Should there remain any unanswered questions, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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